

## Missouri Vaccines for Children Refrigeration Requirements

1. All units must maintain proper temperatures (measured by a current certified, calibrated thermometer), be large enough to hold the year's largest inventory, and be certified by a VFC program representative before starting the program and periodically thereafter.

Temperatures:

- a. Refrigerators: 35 to 46<sup>0</sup>F or 2 to 8<sup>0</sup>C (refrigerator temperatures preferably kept in the mid-temperature range). **Colder** is not better. Store around 40<sup>0</sup>F or 4<sup>0</sup>C.
  - b. Freezers: 5<sup>0</sup>F or colder or -15<sup>0</sup>C or colder, i.e., -16<sup>0</sup>C -17<sup>0</sup>C -18<sup>0</sup>C etc. (Freezer temperatures preferably kept below these temperatures. Here colder is better).
2. Stand-alone refrigeration units are the standard reflecting ACIPs preference for ***single refrigeration*** or ***single freezer*** units over combination "household" units. All new providers needing units will be required to have stand-alone units. **Existing providers will be required to obtain stand-alone units when current units malfunction and/or need replacement.**
  3. The standard for high volume practices with large vaccine storage needs is a purpose built refrigeration unit manufactured specifically for storing biologicals.
  4. Currently a household-style, combination refrigerator and freezer unit with a separate control for each compartment storing vaccine and independent exterior doors is acceptable.
    - a. The freezer unit **CANNOT** be housed inside the refrigerator unit, i.e., if you open a single external refrigerator door and **see** a freezer compartment inside you cannot use this unit for storage of VFC vaccine. The unit must have separate external refrigerator and freezer doors.
    - b. ***If*** you purchase a **separate freezer**, the manufacturer should assure that the temperature can be maintained properly (see #1b above). Consider purchasing a chest type freezer as it does not fluctuate as much as a side door opening freezer.
  5. A purpose-built refrigeration unit manufactured specifically for storing biologicals **is required for any under-the-counter refrigerator**. "Dorm" style refrigerators are **NOT** allowed.
  6. All providers may be asked to place temperature data recording devices in their refrigerators and freezers periodically. At that time you will be instructed on where and how to place the devices, as well as when and how to return the devices to DHSS.
  7. **New providers only**. Prior to enrolling all new providers will be required to purchase or possess (at a minimum) **stand-alone refrigeration units** and shall submit two (2) weeks of temperatures readings that have been checked twice daily and entered on a temperature log to the VFC program at:

Vaccines for Children Program  
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PO Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570  
-Or-  
Fax: (573) 526-5220